

Boston December 30^c 1837

Dear Brother May:

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I have but a moment to say
a great deal to you. I rec'd a few days since
the note and books, you forwarded from this
city. I wish you to authorize friend Brooks to sell
the mulberry Trees at the market, ^{price} without reference
to the price I named, even if it should ^{be} as low
as \$25⁰⁰ per hundred, for Trees of the size & quality
described. I have been persuaded to take an agency
for the A. B. S. Society, to labour in Germany for a few
months or a year, I shall therefore be obliged to
leave my farming to some one else, and therefore
must sell part of my trees, even if I sell at a
sacrifice: if friend Brooks should have an offer for
five hundred or upwards at a less price than
above named he had better confer with me
by letter. he shall ^{be} well remunerated for his trouble.
I think on the whole that things look well

in this city. the liberator will be sustained, and
the attempt at a new organisation will not amount
to anything. I wish there was another printer
for the liberator, Friend Knapp has not the right
kind of business talent, he is altogether too negligent
in keeping his accounts, I do not know as a
change could be made, but I do think that
some of the friends should get together, when
they come to the annual meeting, and have
a plain talk with Friend Knapp, and see
that some provision be made for Brother Garrison.
if some persons had that paper, with its subscription
list of about three thousand, they would derive
therefrom a comfortable support, and pay Brother
G. sufficient for his necessities. but as things
now are if left to depend on Knapp, he will
lean on a broken reed; will you look to this
matter when you come to Boston? for I know
of no one else who will feel sufficient interest,
and who can do as you can.

I am informed that Mary Anne is to be married next
Tuesday evening at the house of her Aunt in Bristol,
to a man by the name of Bowers, formerly of Providence,
a navy officer stationed at Charles Town; if I mistake
not a former schoolmate of mine, and from
the little knowledge I have had of him since
I fear he is a dissipated character. but I may
be wrong.

Fanny Scarborough came as far as Providence with me,
intends making a visit there, of three or four weeks.
Your friends are all well in Brooklyn.

Kind Love to your dear family, Yours in Truth.

Geo. W. Benson

Dec. 30.

Saturday Morning.

Dear Brother May:

I think it best to defer the publication of your
letter to me, respecting bro. Lovejoy's conduct, until I hear from
you again. Your premises are wholly unsound, and therefore your
strictures are not in place. You take it for granted, that those
who signed the Declaration of Sentiments at Philadelphia, and
abolitionists generally, have obligated themselves not to defend their
own lives and liberties - not even to support civil government. -
Certainly, such is not the fact. I presume you are hardly pre-
pared to say, that abolitionists ought not to sustain civil gov-

right of self-defence, as a body; hence, their official organ cannot denounce bro. L. for giving his aid to the civil authority, at its request. I wish it were otherwise — I wish all in our ranks could be led to see, that civil government — a government upheld by military power — is not justified among Christians; but that question remains to be settled. Those who agree in sentiment with the Grimké's, H. C. Wright, and myself, will lament the conduct of our Alton friend; but all who do not agree with us ought to applaud them. Let me hear from you again. I will most cheerfully insert your letter; but I think it can be shown to be radically unsound. W. L. G.

England - Paid.

Rev. Samuel J. May,

South Scituate,

Mass.

Geo. Thompson &
Wm. L. Garrison
Dec. 30. 1837.

ernment; and yet, what was bro. Lovejoy's act? He died, not as an abolitionist, but as one of the police of Alton, regularly enrolled by the Mayor, with others, to sustain the supremacy of law against anarchists and ruffians. When he fell, and the murderers triumphed, government fell. All the facts in the case prove this. I think none but those who repudiate all human governments, sustained by physical force, can consistently reprobate Lovejoy's conduct. The Emancipator has no right to disclaim the act, and I think its cause has been consistent. Abolitionists hold to human governments, and to the